

SENATE BILL 2261
By Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 10, relative to state special schools, to enact the State Special Schools Model Schools Act of 1998, and to amend provisions of Title 37, relative to the powers of the Department of Children's Services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 10, is amended by adding the following as an appropriately numbered new section:

49-50_____. This part is known as and may be cited as the "State Special Schools Model Schools Act of 1998".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-1001, is amended by deleting subdivision (1)(A) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(1)(A) Establish and control the Tennessee preparatory school, the Tennessee school for the blind, the Tennessee school for the deaf and the Alvin C. York agricultural institute as model state special schools; to elect, on the recommendation of the commissioner, the president, superintendent, teachers, officers and other employees for such schools; to fix, on the recommendation of the commissioner, the salaries and terms of office of such officers and all other employees; and to prescribe curricula and other requirements for diplomas and degrees. These model schools shall have the following goals and be designed to accomplish the following:

20000001

20000001

009946

00994619

(i) Tennessee preparatory school shall be established as a model alternative school for children who are dependent, neglected, unruly, or in danger of becoming delinquent. As such, juvenile judges shall be permitted to refer such children directly to the school. The school shall serve as a resource center for modeling materials and methods for teaching dependent, neglected children, unruly children or children in danger of becoming delinquent for Tennessee school districts.

(ii) Tennessee school for the blind shall be established as a model school for teaching the blind and visually impaired. The school shall serve as a resource center for modeling materials and methods of teaching the blind and visually impaired for Tennessee school districts.

(iii) Tennessee school for the deaf shall be established as a model school for teaching the hearing impaired. The school shall serve as a resource center for modeling materials and methods for teaching the hearing impaired for Tennessee school districts.

(iv) Alvin C. York agricultural institute shall be established as a model school for rural education. The school shall serve as a resource center for modeling materials and methods for teaching students for Tennessee school districts.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-1001(1), is amended by deleting subdivisions (B)(i) and (B)(ii) in their entirety and substituting instead the following:

(B)(i) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education in any reference to the Tennessee preparatory school, Tennessee school for the blind, Tennessee school for the deaf, and the Alvin C. York agricultural institute.

(B)(ii) "Department" means the department of education in any reference to the Tennessee preparatory school, Tennessee school for the blind, Tennessee school for the deaf and the Alvin C. York agricultural institute.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-1001, is amended by adding at the end of subsection (2) the following words and punctuation:

except, however, that each of the named model special schools shall be permitted to and are encouraged to establish Internal Revenue Service, Section 501(c)(3) foundations and to actively seek contributions to the foundations where established:

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-1002, is amended by deleting subsections (a) and (b) in their entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) Each of Tennessee's model special schools is authorized to maintain bank accounts in its own name and to draw and disperse vouchers and checks for expenditures through its own disbursing officers and to maintain its own fiscal procedures under rules prescribed by the state board of education or the office of the comptroller of the treasury as applicable.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, the declared purpose of this section is to provide the state model special schools with the same privileges, rights and powers now enjoyed by the state university and community college system under the board of regents.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-5-106, is amended by deleting subsection (16) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(16) Coordinate, advise, consult and contract for services with the Tennessee preparatory school, a model state special school pursuant to Title 49, Chapter 50, Part 10.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.